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DRESS FABRICS.

FOR this month, a transition between the winter styles and spring novelties, there is a marked taste shown for figured satins. It is a material made up into reception, visiting and evening dinner toilettes and they are generally totally untrimmed. If the satin is black, as it most frequently is, it will be figured with small flowers such as fuchsias, lilies-of-the-valley and forget-me-nots in natural size and colorings. They are made into round skirts with short round or pointed bodices and large full and fancy sleeves. Their only rival is the new tight fitted Princess robe.

SURAH, INDIA AND CHINA SILKS are among the most important fabrics in use this season. China silks in black and in pure white are being made up very extensively as house and afternoon gowns. The white ones are arranged with plain round skirts and pretty fancy blouses. A ribbon belt of satin or grosgrain is passed around the waist and at one side with loops and long ends reaching to the foot of the skirt. Black India and surah silk gowns are made up similarly for travelling dresses. Fancy colors in these silks are made up into accordion skirts for matinee wear. They are often bordered with narrow ruffles. These skirts are worn with pretty tea and house jackets for informal occasions.

SPRING CLOTHS are no longer seen in dark colors even for street wear. Tailor-made gowns in the rich shades of velvet, the egg plant purple, fine gray and drab brown shades are seen among them. There are also grayish tints of blue, lichen-hued green among cloths used for both costumes and coats. The costumes are made with but very little trimming. A little braid or passementerie is about their only accepted decoration. These delicate colors are often associated with white cloth, and gray or violet colored draperies combined with an underskirt or panels of white are decidedly stylish.

GORAH SILKS, the old fashioned bandanna or handkerchief silks, came to this country imported from India and stamped in a variety of Damascus French patterns in London. These are the strongest India silks made, outwearing a hand-made foulard of ordinary quality. They are thirty-six inches wide and come only in seven yard pieces. Patterns in lovely old cashmere colors, in Damascan tulip and other conventionalized leaf and flower designs, are sold at a lower price than those printed in more modern French flower patterns. These silks are used in Persian and flower patterns for matinees and parts of house gowns, and in dark colors with set figures, or in plain, unstamped grounds for serviceable travelling dresses.

MOUSSELINE DE SOIE is in greater favor for evening dresses than ever if such were possible after last season's record when it was used so extensively by younger and old ladies indiscriminately. The plain and small figured patterns are generally trimmed with narrow ribbon stripes and also lace set on flat like insertions or panels, and handsome sashes are also used to drape them. Striped mousseline de soie with the stripes in waved lines are also much used, and there are among the more expensive fabrics magnificently embroidered patterns showing metallic as well as silk threads. Primrose and a dainty heliotrope shade are the prettiest colors among them.

CHEVIOTS have no decided rivals. They are so smoothly and evenly woven, so light and soft when draped, and have been found to wear in such a delightful manner that for certain purposes they are certainly unsurpassed. They come in fine checks and hair stripes and for young ladies in tartan plaids, made up with plain or "mixed" varieties. The pretty dark green and blue tartan, known as the "black Forty-Second," in the lighter blue and green called the "Gordon" and the brighter "Fife" mixture are the most favored tartan clans. Velvet is much used with them for small accessories.